



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of: SALAMONE, Salvatore J. et al.
Serial No: 09/712,525
Filed: November 14, 2000
For: IMMUNOASSAY FOR HIV PROTEASE
INHIBITORS
Art Unit: 1648
Examiner: Lucas Zachariah

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 13, 2003

Dear Sir:

This reply is in response to the Official Action mailed on September 30, 2003.
Since no period for reply was specified, the time to reply expires on March 30, 2004

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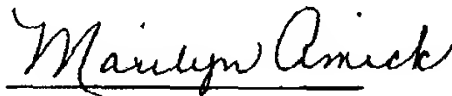
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claim 1, paragraph (a), and in claim 7, paragraph (a). It is not cross-reactive with other compounds in the sample, including agonists or antagonists of the HIV protease inhibitor. The method of claims 1-6 is specifically for determining an HIV protease inhibitor, and the method requires a receptor *specific* for the inhibitor and a conjugate comprising a ligand of the inhibitor and a non-isotopic signal generating moiety. It is not a screening method.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants argue that the claims of Groups I and II are linked so as to form a single general inventive concept and comprise the same or corresponding technical features. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the restriction requirement.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 02-2958. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn L. Amick
Reg. No. 30,444

November 13, 2003

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)

Applicant(s): Salamone et al.

Docket No.

RDId 00111 US

Serial No.

09/712,525

Filing Date

November 14, 2000

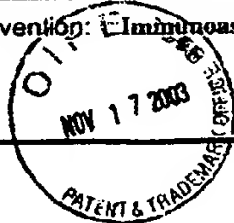
Examiner

Z. Lucas

Group Art Unit

1648

Invention: Immunoassay for HIV Protease Inhibitors



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I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action of September 30, 2003

(Identify type of correspondence)

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